

2025 INVESTMENT INSIGHT

BURUNDI BEACONS:

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE DECEMBER 2024
INVESTORS' ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS IN
BUJUMBURA – BURUNDI



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INTRODUCTION

KTA – Noa Advocates (our chambers in Burundi) participated in a strategic roundtable discussion highlighting investment opportunities in various sectors of Burundi's economy. The event brought together development partners, private investors, and government representatives to explore avenues for fostering sustainable growth in Tourism, agriculture, mining, healthcare, education, energy, and industry.

The discussions also underscored the incentives available to encourage foreign and local investments.

This report provides an overview of investment opportunities in Burundi, following KTA-Noa Advocates' participation in a roundtable discussion.

The roundtable explored the alignment of investment initiatives with the revised National Development Plan (PND) 2018–2027, Burundi's Vision 2040, and the strategic priorities for 2023–2027. The discussions emphasized Burundi's ambition to transition to an emerging economy by 2040 and a developed nation by 2060, highlighting key sectors for economic growth and sustainable development.

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STRATEGIC VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Burundi's Vision 2040 aims to establish the country as an emerging economy through structural transformation, improved governance, and sustainable development. The revised PND 2018–2027 articulates five strategic pillars:

- **Structural Economic Transformation:** Promoting sectors with high growth potential, including agriculture, energy, and industry.
- **Human Capital Development and Social Inclusion:** Enhancing access to education, healthcare, and social protection.
- **Environmental Sustainability and Cultural Heritage:** Preserving natural resources and promoting climate resilience.
- **Resource Mobilization and International Cooperation:** Strengthening partnerships and efficient resource allocation.
- **Governance, Peace, and Social Cohesion:** Ensuring effective governance and fostering national unity.

...An emerging economy through structural transformation, improved governance, and sustainable development...

INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

1. MINING SECTOR

- **Potential:** Burundi possesses a rich diversity of mineral resources, including coltan, gold, nickel, phosphates, carbonates, vanadium, limestone, and peat. However, the current artisanal mining techniques yield low production, presenting significant opportunities for modernization.
- **Key Projects:** Exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in Lake Tanganyika, Investment in large-scale nickel mining projects to meet global demand.

2. AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-INDUSTRY

- **Potential:** Agriculture remains the backbone of Burundi's economy, employing over 80% of the population. Investment in modern farming techniques, agro-processing, and value chain development can significantly boost productivity and food security.
- **Key Projects:** Initiatives include irrigation systems, high-yield crop varieties, and export-oriented agro-industrial parks.
- **Budget Allocation:** Approximately BIF 200 billion over five years is earmarked for agricultural transformation.

3. ENERGY SECTOR

- **Potential:** Burundi's hydropower resources remain underutilized, with significant opportunities in renewable energy, including solar and wind power.
- **Key Projects:** Development of hydropower plants, rural electrification programs, and off-grid solutions, Development of geothermal energy projects on six identified sites.
- **Budget Allocation:** Over BIF 300 billion is allocated to energy infrastructure projects.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

- **Potential:** Improved transport networks and logistics hubs are essential for economic integration and market access.
- **Key Projects:** Construction of roads, bridges, and modern ports on Lake Tanganyika.
- **Budget Allocation:** Infrastructure development constitutes a significant portion of the PND budget, with BIF 400 billion dedicated to strategic projects.

5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Potential:** With an emphasis on manufacturing and export-oriented industries, Burundi seeks to diversify its economy.
- **Key Projects:** Establishing industrial zones, promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and enhancing industrial competitiveness in agro – food processing, glass and building material manufacturing, creation of pharmaceutical industries, creating of waste processing industries, packaging industries, cold chain logistics industries and many others.
- **Budget Allocation:** Approximately BIF 150 billion is targeted for industrial development initiatives.

6. DIGITAL ECONOMY AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

- **Potential:** Investment in ICT infrastructure and financial technology can drive innovation and financial inclusion.
- **Key Projects:** Expansion of broadband connectivity, digital payment systems, establishment of call centers, establishment of data centers, market entry of telecommunications companies, software development, and capacity-building in ICT.
- **Budget Allocation:** Over BIF 100 billion is allocated to ICT and financial services..

TAX AND CUSTOMS INCENTIVES

TAX INCENTIVES

- Exemption from customs duties on imported equipment and raw materials.
- VAT and customs duty exemptions on imported construction materials and capital goods not available locally.
- Reduced tax rates on profits for the first five years, beginning with 5% in the first year and gradually increasing to 25% in the fifth year.
- Exemption from transfer taxes on the acquisition of land or buildings.

Customs Incentives

- Exemption from customs duties for goods manufactured within the EAC, subject to a certificate of origin.
- Special provisions for VAT on capital goods under the Investors Code.

Non-Tax Incentives

- Right to ownership for both natural and legal persons.
- Right to concessions and participation in public procurement processes.
- Right to acquire or lease real estate, including state-owned land or buildings.
- Protection against expropriation or nationalization of investments.
- Freedom to repatriate profits.
- Facilitation of travel document issuance for foreign investors.

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BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK

The revised PND prioritizes investments across these sectors with a total five-year budget exceeding BIF 1.2 trillion. This strategic allocation underscores the government's commitment to fostering economic growth, reducing poverty, and achieving sustainable development.

CONCLUSION

Burundi presents compelling investment opportunities, supported by a clear vision and strategic framework. By aligning with the country's development goals, investors can contribute to transformative growth while benefiting from emerging market potential. The government's focus on governance, infrastructure, and human capital development provides a solid foundation for sustainable investments.

KTA-Noa Advocates (our chambers in Burundi) remains committed to supporting stakeholders in navigating Burundi's investment landscape, ensuring compliance with regulatory frameworks, and maximizing returns on investment.



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